venue Intelligence recovered 15 kgs. of light-brownish powder suspected to be heroin, from a truck. No precise value of the drug seized can be determined as the illicit market price varies from place to place depending upon the purity, place of origin, local demand and supply, etc.

(c) In the past six months (i.e., April to September, 1987), about 2,190 kgs. of heroin have been seiezd in 157 cases.

(d) and (e) Use of heroin is prohibited in India. Therefore, the question of its resale to consumers does not arise. The seized heroin, ripe for disposal, after due legal proceedings is to be destroyed under proper supervision.

Violation of FERA by the Indian Express Group of Newspapers

*53. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

SMT. SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign exchange violation under FERA by Shri Ram Nath Goenka and by the Indian Express Group of newspapers has recently been detected;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c) On the basis of investigations made so far, the Enforcement Directorate has initiated adjudication proceedings and issued show cause notices to M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd. (IENBPL) and Shri Ram Nath Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of M/s. IENBPL and others for:

(i) acquiring of DM 1,27,450 and transferring DM 1.49,900 unauthorisedly; and

(ii) making payment to M/s. Instrumentation Process, New Delhi of Rs. 90,000/- as consideration or in association with the receipt of DM. 22,450 by M/s. Dietrich Kuhne, Hamburg.

Withdrawal of Duty Exemption for specified Goods

*54. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have withdrawn duty exemption for specified goods including footwear; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The excise duty exemption for the small scale units manufacturing specified goods, including footwear, has not been withdrawn, but only modified so as to deny the benefit of the concession in the case of goods which are manufactured by a small scale unit under the brand name of a big manufacturer of trader.

(b) The modification has been done in order to reduce the chances of large manufacturers or traders deriving unintended benefit by getting their goods manufactured by units in the small scale sector.

Pollution of rivers in Rajasthan

*55. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the rivers in Rajasthan which are being polluted;

(b) the level of pollution existing in each rivers; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove pollution from these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHA-

JAN LAL): (a) Rivers some stretches of which are being polluted are the Chambal at Kota, the Khadkhada at Khetri, the Barach at Udaipur and Chittorgarh, the Bandi at Pali, the Jojari at Jodhpur and the Luni at Balotra.

(b) According to the available data the level of pollution existing in the rivers is:

	PH	Conductivity	Chemical Oxygen Demand (mg./litre)
Khadkhada at Khetri	3 5 —4.1	1970—2200	155—407
Barach near Udaipur	7 99—8.20	1200—1500	41—44
Barach at Daroli to Nandwel (Chittorgarh)	8.48—8 57	1600—1900	41—92

(c) The steps taken include the following:

(i) The industries are directed to instal and to modify the existing facilities for treating the effluents to the prescribed standards before discharge into rivers;

(ii) Legal action is taken against the industrial unit for violation of pollution control requirements;

(iii) Fiscal incentives are given to the industries for installation of effluent treatment plants; and

(iv) A combined effluent treatment plant for cluster of small scale units has been set up at Pali and similar plants at Jodhpur and Balotra are being planned.

LIC Loans for Municipalities and Corporations

*56. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC advances loans to Municipalities and Corporations for executing their water supply schemes under the guarantee of the respective State Governments;

(b) if so, what are the details of the procedure laid down for giving loans to Municipalities/Corporations;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to simplify the procedure by giving lumpsum loan to the State Governments as per Plan allocation, which will be responsible for granting loan to the local bodies; if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether LIC loans are granted outside Plan ceiling to facilitate early completion of major water supply projects of the State and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The loan applications for technically and administratively approved schemes of Government received from State Governments or the State-level Boards, wherever constituted, are examined by the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Justification and financial viability of the Schemes are established before sanction of loans. After execution of agreement by the borrower and Guarantee Deed by the State Government concerned, loans are disbursed in instalments looking to the financial and physical progress of the Schemes in hand subject to the allocations made by the Planning Commission.